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FEBRUARY 15.

Mr. GEO. W. TRYON JR. in the chair.

Twenty-four persons present.

Grampus Rissoanus on the American Coast.—Prof. HEILPRIN called attention to the recent stranding on the New Jersey coast, at Atlantic City, of Risso's whale, *Grampus Rissoanus*, a form readily distinguished from other allied cetaceans by the peculiar slaty lines which are irregularly distributed over the body. The speaker thought that this was the first instance of this singular Mediterranean species having been recorded from the trans-Atlantic waters, and emphasized the difficulty of drawing lines of delimitation to the oceanic faunas. The specimen in question was dark-slaty in color on the sides, verging to black on the back and measured about eleven feet in length.

FEBRUARY 22.

Mr. CHARLES MORRIS in the chair.

Nineteen persons present.

Origin of the Excretory System in the Earth-worm.—Professor EDMUND B. WILSON, of Bryn Mawr, Pa., laid before the Academy an account of his observations on the development of *Lumbricus olivus*, calling especial attention to the remarkable similarity that exists between the development of the nephridia and the origin of the excretory system in the vertebrates. The gastrula is formed by a process of invagination. Upon the establishment of the germ-bands, they are found to be essentially similar to those of *Clepsine*, ending behind in eight large cells, by the continued division of which the bands increase in length as the embryo grows. Two of these large cells are mesoblasts (giving rise to the dissepiments, muscles and vessels) two are neuroblasts (giving rise to the ventral nerve-cord), two are nephroblasts (giving rise to the excretory organs) and two give rise to cells whose fate could not be determined. From each of these cells a row of cells extends forwards on the ventral side of the body between the ectoblast and entoblast. The rows are at first one cell wide, but are converted in front into solid cords, several cells in thickness. The principal interest of the development lies in the origin and fate of the rows